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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,375	06/14/2001	Tsuyoshi Fukuda	B422-162	6884

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MICHELLE P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2851

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/881,375

Applicant(s)

FUKUDA, TSUYOSHI

Examiner

Michelle Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 June 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the lens device must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. Examiner notes on Pg. 6, lines 9-10, it is stated that the lens device is not shown.

A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings or an amendment to the specification are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "the two sides" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is not clear to which two sides applicant refers.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,628,039 to Muramatsu et al.

With regard to claim 1, Muramatsu et al. disclose a camera (film unit 11) comprising:

a lens holding member (lens unit holder 106) for detachably holding a lens device (lens unit 50) (see Fig. 5);

an image taking device (photographic film 30a) for taking an image formed by the lens unit 50 (see Fig. 2);

a front main body member (front cover 29) forming a front portion of a main body (unit body 12) of the film unit 11 (see Figs. 1, 2);

a rear main body member (rear cover 27) which forms a rear portion of the unit body 12 of the film unit 11 and is coupled to the front cover 29 (see Fig. 1); and

a central main body member (main body 26) on which the holder 106 and the film 30a are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of the front and rear covers 27, 29 (see Col. 4, lines 26-8, Col. 8, lines 59-63, Fig. 2).

With regard to claim 2, Muramatsu et al. teach the main body 26 as discussed above with respect to claim 1 to be fixed to only the front cover 29 of the front and rear covers 27, 29 (see Col. 8, lines 59-63, Col. 9, lines 4-7, Fig. 2).

With regard to claim 3, Muramatsu et al. teach the film unit 11 as discussed above with respect to claim 1 to further comprise coupling members (top plate 27a,

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cutout 29b) for coupling the front and rear covers 27, 29 to each other (see Col. 9, lines 4-7, Fig. 8).

With regard to claim 4, Muramatsu et al. teach the main body 26 to have mounted thereto coupling members including a guide rail (87b) and the top surface of a plate (72) for aiding in the attachment between the plate 27a and the cutout 29b and discussed above with respect to claim 3 (see Col. 9, lines 8-11, see Fig. 7). Here examiner considers the guide rail 87b and the plate 72 to be arranged on two sides of the main body 26, the first side being to the left of a mirror holding member (53) and the second side being to the right of the mirror holding member 53 (see Fig. 7).

With regard to claim 12, Muramatsu et al. teach the film unit 11 to further comprise a lens device (lens hood portion 43) detachably mounted on the film unit 11 (see Col. 5, lines 15-6).

6. Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,828,919 to Furuya et al.

With regard to claim 1, Furuya et al. disclose a camera comprising:

- a lens holding member (body plate 41) for detachably holding a lens device (imaging lens barrel 2) (see Fig. 9);

- an image taking device (photographic film) for taking an image formed by the lens barrel 2 (see Fig. 9);

- a front main body member (front cover 1) forming a front portion of a main body of the camera (see Fig. 5);

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a rear main body member (rear cover 4) which forms a rear portion of the main body of the camera and is coupled to the front cover 1 (see Fig. 5); and

a central main body member (camera body 44) on which the plate 41 and the film are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of the front and rear covers 1, 4 (see Col. 6, lines 52-3, Col. 8, lines 12-21, Fig. 9).

With regard to claim 5, Furuya et al. teach the camera as discussed above with respect to claim 1 to further comprise a finder optical device (viewfinder unit 49) mounted on the camera body 44 (see Col. 8, lines 42-5, Fig. 7). Furuya et al. also teach the camera to further comprise a mirror unit (mirror box 43) which is mounted on the camera body 44 and reflects a light beam from the lens barrel 2 and guides the light beam to the viewfinder unit 49 (see Col. 6, lines 3-7, Figs. 6-9).

With regard to claim 6, Furuya et al. teach the viewfinder unit 49 as discussed above with respect to claim 5 to include a focal plate (focusing screen) serving as an imaging plane for the light beam reflected by the mirror box 43 (see Col. 6, lines 3-7).

With regard to claim 7, Furuya et al. teach the camera as discussed above with respect to claim 5 to further comprise a focus detection device which is mounted on the camera body 44 and performs focus detection by using a light beam from the mirror box 43 (see Col. 6, lines 1-2, Col. 7, lines 3-4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,628,039 to Muramatsu et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,697,005 to Kikuchi.

With regard to claims 8 and 9, Muramatsu et al. do not teach the front and rear covers 27, 29 to comprise metal parts. However, Kikuchi discloses a camera comprising a front main body member (cover A21) forming a front portion of a main body of the camera and a rear main body member (rear cover A23) which forms a rear portion of the main body of the camera and is coupled to the cover A21, thereby rendering the covers A21, A23 analogous to the front and rear covers 27, 29 of Muramatsu et al. (see Fig. 8). Kikuchi teaches the cover A21 to be made of aluminum and formed by pressing for not only preventing the front surface of the camera from being damaged but to upgrade the appearance of the camera as well (see Col. 1, lines 27-32, Col. 5, lines 8-13, Fig. 8). Kikuchi does not teach expressly the rear cover A23 to be made of aluminum, but does refer to cover assemblies made entirely of metal (see Col. 1, lines 21-3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate into the camera of Muramatsu et al. a front cover made of metal as disclosed by Kikuchi and a rear cover also made of metal for preventing damage to the entire surface of the camera.

With regard to claim 10, Kikuchi teaches the camera as discussed above with respect to claims 8 and 9 to further comprise flash means, thereby teaching implicitly an electric component part to be placed between the covers A21, A23, the covers A21,

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A23 being rendered conductive to electric ground (see Col. 4, line 50 to Col. 5, line 34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate into the combined invention as discussed above with respect to claims 8 and 9 an electric component as disclosed by Kikuchi for enabling a flash device.

9. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,628,039 to Muramatsu et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,058,274 to Omiya.

With regard to claim 11, Muramatsu et al. do not teach the film unit to further comprise an accessory mount. However, Omiya discloses a camera (camera 10) comprising a front main body member (front cover 71) forming a front portion of a main body of the camera 10 and a rear main body member (rear cover 50) which forms a rear portion of the main body of the camera 10 and is coupled to the front cover 71, thereby rendering the front and rear covers 50, 71 analogous to the front and rear covers 27, 29 of Muramatsu et al. (see Figs. 1-5). With respect to the cover assembly, Omiya teaches the camera 10 to further comprise a casing member (top body panel cover 72) on which an accessory mount portion (accessory shoe 327) on which an electronic flash and other accessories can be detachably mounted is fixed (see Col. 5, lines 12-5, Fig. 5). Although Omiya does not disclose coupling means for attaching the top body panel cover 72 to the front cover 71, Omiya does reference a known camera, wherein a top body panel cover is supported by a reinforcing member (segment 62) mounted on a decorative sheet which is attached to a front cover (see Col. 1, lines 11-6, 35-7, Fig.

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10). Here Omiya explains that the decorative sheet is made of metal and that the segment 62 is welded to the decorative sheet. Therefore, it is understood that segment 62 is made of metal. Omiya further explains that the segment 62 maintains the front of the top body panel cover within the same plane as the front cover for providing excellent external appearance (see Col. 1, lines 37-42). It would have been obvious, then, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate into the camera of Muramatsu et al. a top body panel cover having an accessory shoe as disclosed by Omiya for attaching an electronic flash, and being supported by a segment 62 as discussed by Omiya for improving the appearance of the camera.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are provided to further show the state of the art with respect to cover assemblies:

U.S. Patent No. 5,732,302 to Yokota

U.S. Patent No. 5,708,898 to Manabe et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,205,293 to DiRisio et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,208,808 to DiRisio

U.S. Patent No. 5,669,017 to Yamashina et al.

The following patent is provided to further show the state of the art with respect to accessory mount portions:

U.S. Patent No. 5,852,752 to Nakanishi et al.

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The following patents are provided to further show the state of the art with respect to viewfinder systems:

U.S. Patent No. 5,576,782 to Kameyama


U.S. Patent No. 6,297,909 to Sensui

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-2771. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on 703-308-2847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7723 for regular communications and 703-305-7723 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4900.

mpn
May 2, 2002


RUSSELL ADAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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